

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the above-captioned application as amended.

In this Amendment, claims 13-45, 57-76, 88, 101-133, 145-164 and 176-194 have been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, claims 1-12, 46-56, 77-87, 89-100, 134-144 and 165-175 remain pending. Claims 1, 46, 77, 89, 134 and 165 have been amended in terms which more clearly define the present invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 46, 77, 89, 134 and 165 are the independent claims.

In the Office Action dated June 13, 2004 (hereinafter the "Office Action"), independent claims 1, 46, 77, 89, 134 and 165 and certain of their respective dependent claims were rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,714,968 to Prust in view of Official Notice (e.g., separating access control from the content server). Others of the dependent claims were variously rejected as obvious over Prust and the Official Notice in view of other prior art. Still others of the dependent claims were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in proper independent form.

However, Applicants note that related U.S. Patent No. 7,058,696, assigned in common with the present application, issued June 6, 2006. Applicants have updated the reference to this related patent on page 1 of the present specification. This related patent was also examined by the present Examiner. A copy of this '696 patent is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicants have carefully compared the claims of the '696 patent with the claims of the subject application, and have now amended the claims of the subject application to recite subject matter that the Examiner found to be patentable in the '696 patent. Thus, Applicants now can respectfully point out that each of the independent claims pending in the present application has been **amended** to include **all** of the limitations of a corresponding issued claim in the '696 patent.

The claim correspondence as follows:

<u>Subject Application</u>	<u>'696 Patent</u>
Claim 1	Claim 1
Claim 46	Claim 39
Claim 77	Claim 63
Claim 89	Claim 68
Claim 134	Claim 106
Claim 165	Claim 130

For example, application claim 1 is now identical to '696 patent claim 1, and additionally includes the final paragraph (d): "delegating access control to a particular file of the group of files to an access control node."

With regard to the prior art cited against application independent claim 1 in the Office Action, it is noted that Prust is of record in the '696 patent. Moreover, the subject of the Official Notice with regard to amended independent claim 1 (separating access control from the content server) relates to paragraph (d), not to the subject matter identical to the allowable subject matter of '696 patent claim 1.

The same correspondence applies to the remaining independent claims.

For this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1, 46, 77, 89, 134 and 165 are allowable over Prust and the Official Notice, taken individually or together.

Applicants further submit that the amended independent claims 1, 46, 77, 89, 134 and 165 are allowable over Prust and the Official Notice, taken individually or together, for the additional reasons given in the Amendment filed December 13, 2005, which are incorporated herein for reasons of brevity. This Amendment filed December 13, 2005 is indicated on the accompanying RCE to be entered.

The remaining claims depend from one of the independent claims and partake of their

novelty.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12, 46-56, 77-87, 89-100, 134-144 and 165-175 are patentably distinct from the cited prior art and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow this application and pass this case to issue.

If any fee is due for this filing, please charge the LARGE ENTITY fee therefor to Deposit Account No. 16-2500 of the undersigned.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (212) 969-3314 or by facsimile at (212) 969-2900. Please direct all correspondence to Customer No. 21890 at the address provided below.

Respectfully submitted
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